

## **AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 8 as follows:

Fig. 17A is an operation diagram of a histogram memory upon inputting a hue value to an address A shown in Fig. 16;

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 10 as follows:

Fig. 17B is an operation diagram of the histogram memory upon inputting a hue value to an address B shown in Fig. 16;

Please amend the first paragraph on page 12 as follows:

The invalid image detecting block 25 detects the characteristic amount for the invalidity such as the white compression and black compression in the image and no change in image, and further determines whether or not the image is invalid. If it is detected that the image is invalid, the invalid image detecting block 25 outputs an image invalid detecting signal.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 27, line 8 as follows:

Fig. 17A shows the case of inputting a hue value  $[[A]]$ . Data N stored in the address A is incremented by 1 and data  $(N + 1)$  is stored. Fig. 17B shows the case of inputting a hue value  $[[B]]$ . Data M stored in the address B is incremented by 1, and data  $(M + 1)$  is added. By repeating the above operation for all the pixels, the frequency distribution of the hue values is stored in the histogram memory 76.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 29, line 4 as follows:

The saturation distribution characteristic detecting block  $[[73]]$  65 shown in Fig.  $[[15]]$  13 has the similar structure.